

TRAINING OF THE TEACHERS OF
THE BLIND IN GERMANY

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In Preußen besteht ein besonderes Beschulungsgesetz für Blinde im Alter von 6 - 14 Jahren. Nach diesem Gesetz müssen blinde Kinder besondere Blindenschulen besuchen oder nachweisen, daß sie sachgemäßen Privatunterricht haben. Als sachkundig wird von den Behörden im allgemeinen nur der geprüfte Blindenlehrer anerkannt. An Blindenanstalten dürfen seit 1913 nur Lehrer angestellt werden, die die Blindenlehrerprüfung vor der Staatlichen Prüfungskommission in Berlin bestanden haben. Zu dieser Prüfung kann nur zugelassen werden, wer nachweist, daß er mindestens 2 Jahre hindurch Blinde unterrichtet hat. Die Anstalten durften Hilfslehrer einstellen und ihre Vorbereitung auf die Prüfung selbst leiten. Jetzt soll ihnen dieses Recht genommen werden. Es wird in Zukunft nur die Lehrkraft zur Prüfung gehen dürfen, die die staatlichen Lehrgänge durchgemacht hat. Staatliche Lehrgänge zur Vorbereitung auf die Blindenlehrerprüfung werden seit Jahrzehnten an der Staatlichen Blindenanstalt in Berlin-Steglitz abgehalten. Wer zu diesen Lehrgängen, die nach der Zentralisierung der Blindenlehrerbildung noch weiter ausgebaut werden sollen, zugelassen werden will, muß zuerst Volksschullehrer sein. Volksschullehrer wird man, wenn man die Abschlußprüfung an einer höheren Schule gemacht hat und dann 2 Jahre auf der Pädagogischen Akademie studierte. Dabei ist zu beachten, daß die letzte Klasse der Höheren Schule die Ziele hat, die in einem college oder einer university im allgemeinen nach etwa 2 Jahren erreicht werden. Der Absolvent der Pädagogischen Akademie muß sich nun erst 2 Jahre in der Unterrichtsarbeit an einer Volksschule bewähren, bevor er die Hauptprüfung machen und auf Lebenszeit mit Pensionsberechtigung angestellt werden darf. Hat der Volksschullehrer die Hauptprüfung bestanden, dann erst darf er zur Teilnahme an den Berliner Lehrgängen vorgeschlagen werden. Die Ausbildung erfolgt zum Teil an der Berliner Universität, zum Teil an der Staatlichen Anstalt. Im 1. Ausbildungsjahr hat der Kandidat wöchentlich 12 Stunden an der Universität Vorlesungen zu hören über Hygiene, Physiologie, Psychologie, Pädagogik, Philosophie. In den Arbeitsgemeinschaften an der Anstalt wird er in 4 Wochenstunden eingeführt in die allgemeine Blindenpädagogik, die Blindenpsychologie, die Geschichte des Blindenunterrichts und der Blindenfürsorge und hat selber Referate zu halten. Er beteiligt sich in jeder Woche mit je 2 Stunden an einem Kursus für englische Sprache und an einem solchen für Lehrmittelbau. Er hospitiert in den verschiedensten Unterrichtsfächern und macht selber Lehrversuche. Im 2. Ausbildungsjahr tritt die wissenschaftlich theoretische Ausbildung an der Universität zugunsten der praktischen Ausbildung mehr zurück. An Vorlesungen und Übungen belegt der Kandidat an der Universität jetzt nur 6 Stunden in der Woche. Dafür hat er unter Aufsicht und Anleitung selbständig zu unterrichten. Etwa alle 3 Wochen hält er eine Lehrprobe, die von dem Leiter der Arbeitsgemeinschaft kritisierend besprochen wird. Er hat sich für das Internatsleben der Blinden zu interessieren und sich an der Aufsicht und an Führungen zu beteiligen. Die Stunden für Englisch und Lehrmittelbau gehen weiter. In jedem Halbjahr ist eine größere wissenschaftliche Arbeit über eine gestellte Aufgabe aus dem Gebiete des Blindenwesens abzufassen. Es werden auch andere Schulen und Einrichtungen für Blinde, ferner solche für Schwachbefähigte, Taubstumme, Taubstummblinde und Sehschwache besucht. So vorbereitet gehen die Kandidaten in die Prüfung. Diese ist eine schriftliche und eine mündliche. Der Prüfling hat 2 Aufgaben - eine aus der Methodik der verschiedenen Unterrichtsfächer, eine aus den Gebieten der Blindenpsychologie oder der allgemeinen Blindenpädagogik in zusammen 3 Stunden unter Aufsicht zu bearbeiten. Wird eine der Arbeiten mit "nicht genügend" bewertet, so gilt die Prüfung als nicht bestanden. Wer zur mündlichen Prüfung zugelassen wird, hält zunächst eine Lehrprobe. Die Prüfung erstreckt sich ferner auf Erziehungs- und Unterrichtslehre im Zusammenhang mit Psychologie

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und Physiologie, ~~XXX~~ insbesondere auf die Kenntnis der Eigenart den und der besonderen Aufgaben ihrer körperlichen, intellektuell und religiös=sittlichen Bildung, ferner auf die Methodik der ein Unterrichtsfächer, dann auf Geschichte und Literatur der Blinden und zuletzt auf Fertigkeit im Gebrauch einer fremden Sprache nicht genügenden Leistungen in der Lehrprobe muß die Befähigung Blindenlehrer versagt werden. Die besondere Prüfung für Direktor Blindenanstalten ist vor 10 Jahren aufgehoben worden.

Die gesteigerten Anforderungen an die Vorbildung rechtfertigen höhere Besoldung. Der endgültig und mit Pensionsberechtigung auf Lebenszeit angestellte Blindenlehrer erhält ein Endgehalt, das um als 25 % höher ist als das der Volksschullehrer. Das Gehalt der toren, die aus dem Blindenlehrerstande hervorgehen, ist etwa 20 her als das der Blindenlehrer.

Training of teachers of the blind in Germany.

In Prussia there exists a special school law for blind children between the ages of 6 to 14 years. According to this law, the blind children must go to special schools for the blind, or show that they receive expert private training. As experts, the authorities as a rule only recognize the certificated teachers of the blind. Since 1913, the only teachers appointed at the institutes for the blind, are those who have passed the examination given for teachers of the blind at the State Examination Commission in Berlin. The admittance to this examination is limited to those that can show that they have taught the blind for at least 2 years. The institutes had a right to appoint assistant teachers and independently direct their training for the examination. This right will now be taken away from them. For the future, the examination will only be given to those applicants that have attended the State Course of Instruction. This State Course of Instruction has been given for decades at the State Institute for the Blind in Berlin-Steglitz. The applicant to this Course of Instruction, which will be further developed in accordance with the centralizing of the training of the teachers of the blind, must be a public school teacher. One is a public school teacher, when one has passed the final examination at a secondary school, and then studied for 2 years at a pedagogical academy. It should be pointed out that the graduating class of this secondary school, has the academic standard that is usually reached in a college and university after 2 years' work.

The graduate of the pedagogical academy must now serve for two years as teacher in a public school before he can try for the major examination and be appointed for life and with pension privileges. Only when the public school teacher has passed the major examination, can he be nominated for participation in the Course of Instruction in Berlin. The instruction is partly given at the University of Berlin, partly at the State Institute. During the first year, the candidate has to attend 12 weekly lectures at the University on hygiene, physiology, psychology pedagogy, philosophy. In four weekly seminary hours at the institute he is in

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II.

he is initiated into the general pedagogy and psychology of the blind, the history of the education and welfare of the blind, after which he must give reports. Every week he has to attend a 2-hour course in English and a 1-hour course in educational apparatus. He must visit classes in various subjects, and also do some probationary teaching himself.

During the second year, the scientific and theoretic training at the University is diminished in favor of the practical side. For lectures and exercises at the University, the candidate only gives 6 hours a week. Instead he must do practical teaching under supervision and guidance. About every 3 weeks, he has a test period, that is criticized by the leader of the seminary. The candidate must take an interest in the boarding school life of the pupils, and make himself familiar with its purpose and management. The course in English and Educational apparatus are continued. Every half year an extended scientific paper on a given subject relating to work for the blind, must be written. There are visits to other schools and institutes for the blind, also the schools for the feeble-minded, the deaf and dumb, the deaf-blind, and those with low vision.

This training leads the candidate up to the examination, which consists of a written and an oral test. The examinee must write 2 papers, one on the theories of teaching methods for the various subjects, the other one on some phase of the psychology or general pedagogy of the blind. This must be done in 8 hours under supervision. If one of the papers is marked "not satisfactory", the examination is not considered as passed.

The applicant that is admitted to the oral test, has to submit to a test in teaching. The examination further covers educational and instructional subjects in connection with ~~the~~ psychology and physiology, especially the science of the individuality of the blind and the special problems of their physical, intellectual and religious-ethical training, and the methods of teaching the various subjects. relating to also the history and literature of the education of the blind, and lastly the ability of the candidate in using a foreign language.

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This training leads the candidate up to the examination, which consists

of a written and an oral test. The examinee must write 3 papers, one on the theories of teaching methods for the various subjects, the other one on some phase

of the psychology or general pedagogy of the blind. This must be done in 6 hours

under supervision. If one of the papers is marked "not satisfactory", the examination is not considered as passed.

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of the candidate in using a foreign language.

III.

If the test in teaching is not passed satisfactorily, the appointment as teacher of the blind is recalled. The special examination for directors of institutes for the blind, was abandoned 10 years ago.

The added requirements as to training, justifies a higher salary. A teacher of the blind who is legally appointed for life and with pension privileges, receives a top salary that is more than 25 % higher than the salary of a public school teacher. The salary of the directors who are appointed from the ranks of the teachers, is about 20 % higher than that of the teachers.

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